

House News

Georgia House of Representatives - January 2006



Ready or Not, Session is Here!!!

Happy New Year and Welcome Back!!! The 2nd Session of the 148th General Assembly has begun, and the first week started off with a bang. The House wasted no time getting down to business quickly and it looks already like this is going to be a busy legislative session. So far this year nearly 90 bills and over 200 resolutions have been introduced.

Last Wednesday, Governor Sonny Perdue gave his annual State of the State address in which he outlined his plans and assessed the over all condition of Georgia's economy, outlined his budget priorities and

laid out the highlights of his legislative agenda.

High on his list were some aggressive proposals to improve education in Georgia, establish a child care tax credit and to create

a Georgia Bureau of Investigation Task Force to fight the troubling epidemic of methamphetamine use through-out the state.

half through this coming April.

The action came after lawmakers met throughout the first morning during a hectic period of committee activity which included a proposal to facilitate voter photo identification by setting up a program which enables all of Georgia's 159 county voter registration offices to issue free photo IDs.

After nearly five hours of debate on the floor, the House passed Senate Bill 84 which will provide for the photo voter ID free of charge. According to the bill, the State will pay for the equipment necessary to produce the photo ID. Now the Senate must decide to agree to the House changes, otherwise a conference committee will negotiate a final version of the bill.

The House will reconvene on January 23, and who knows what they have in store for their second week.



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The House moved swiftly to give Georgia consumers a tax break on natural gas and liquid propane. The bill, which passed with overwhelming support, cuts the current tax in

January

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Noah Anderson	7th
Pat Harris	8th
Rejenia Ballard	9th
Abbey Shockley	13th
Scotty Long	18th
Alexis Redding	22nd
Sandra Witty	26th
Robert Lentz	29th



Greetings from Human Resources

We're off to a great start. Legislative session began on Monday, January 9, 2006 and all is well. All were in place, including the new staff hired to provide support during session. The House Administrative staff is being supported by a diverse group of qualified temporaries. They are both male and female. Many are students, some are retirees and all are committed to seeing the work of the state of Georgia go forward.

Our temporary staff started off with orientation on the Friday before session. Their official duties began the following Monday. We are happy to have them on board.

We ended 2005 with a Christmas Fellowship that allowed us an opportunity to come together,

eat and enjoy good cooking and to be on one accord. Hopefully 2006 will include like opportunities.

We also had a refresher class for administrative staff to prepare us for using the new computer system and software efficiently. Thanks to Pam Lewis, suite 601, CLOB and Patrick Mayer with the Speaker's Office for conducting the training.

If you have problems accessing your paychecks through the Team Georgia/SAO websites, remember detailed instructions are available in the HR office. Call with your questions.

Talk with you next month.....

Arrie B. Porter
Director of Human Resources

Congratulations!

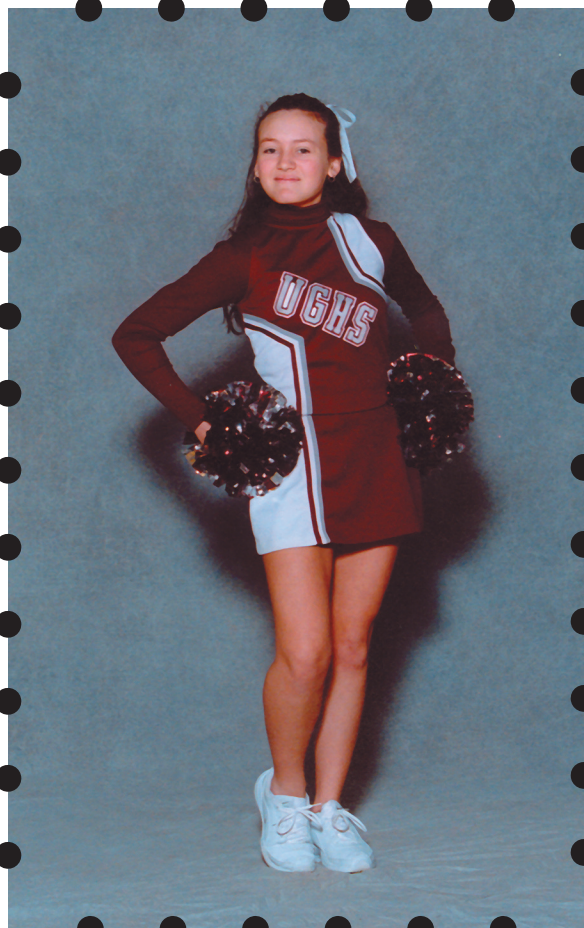
To Janet Jenkins on the birth of her first grandchild!!

Miss Abigail Madison Jenkins was born on January 5, 2006 at 2:22 p.m. at Northside Hospital. Jeff (my son) and Teresa Jenkins are her parents.

She weighed 6 pounds 13 ounces, and was 19 inches long. She has red hair.

She is the first grandchild for both sides of her family, and my mother's first great grandchild.

My mother was the only girl with eight brothers, and all of our children are boys. She is the first girl in two generations in my family. Her favorite thing to do is smile! She is a bundle of joy that our family has long waited for.



Cecily Karrantza

on a great first season!

(gina mckinney's daughter)

Employee Spotlight!

Emily Pattillo Administrative Assistant

I was born many years ago at the old Piedmont Hospital, which was located where Turner Stadium is now. My roots in Atlanta go pretty far back - my family lived in Grant Park, East Atlanta, and Kirkwood. In the 1930's my Mother owned a Beauty Shop across from the old Atlanta City Hall and played on a women's basketball league for Regenstein's Department store.

When I was five my Dad retired from the City of Atlanta Water Department and instead of buying a red sports car, he bought a dairy farm in Rockdale County. I was raised on the farm and still live on a piece of the property. A small strip mall sits on the corner where I played and dodged cows. As an only child I had a wonderful life in the country and even though I have not moved, I really don't live in the same place. I stayed but the "place" changed.

I married my high school sweetheart, Jonny Pattillo, had 3 kids, Jonna, Katie, and Danny and now they are grown and I have 4 grandchildren and one on the way this summer.

I guess the weirdest fact about me is that despite never doing any cooking or housework growing up, I was the "Betty Crocker Homemaker of 1964 for Rockdale Co. High School" (This honor really only required a standardized test - no practical application was necessary) I still laugh about that.

Kay Hodges and I grew up on the west side of Hwy 20 south of Conyers, about 1/4 miles apart and went to the same school and church (I'm 3 years older so she was only two when we first met) and after we each

I was the "Betty Crocker Homemaker of 1964 for Rockdale Co. High School"

married, we moved across the highway and now live five driveways apart and have worked together since we were in our 30's.

I have worked other jobs; substitute teaching, teacher's aide and helped my husband run a construction company, but the Legislature seems to get in one's blood. I worked 15 session in the Clerk's Office and came on full time in 2002. I miss some of my "other life" stuff, but I can truly say, I have met some of the finest, most inspiring people in this job and count many of them as dear friends.



House Communications

Not only has Bill lived his entire life in the State of Georgia and the City of Atlanta, he has been with the House ever since he graduated college and was no longer interested in painting ceilings for a living. Bill first started as an intern for the House, and his first job was actually summarizing every single bill that was passed in the Chamber. Now remember, when Bill started, computers were still a dream, these summaries were done on a good ole fashioned typewriter. Later in his career, the need for radio feeds and a true communications capability arose for the House, and Bill was quick to volunteer to learn the new ability's

from scratch. And this is where Bill's 'Words of Wisdom' come from.

“Make sure that you’re flexible. Adapt to the changing currents of your job and the situation you find yourself in. I had never been a part of the radio world, but the need was there, so I made the move from print to broadcast journalism,” said Bill. “There was a need to develop the capability, so I needed to adopt the skills necessary to achieve the goal of this new direction.” Things do and must change, all we can do is be ready, willing, and able to play our part.

- Brent Cranfield

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We're on the Web!

www.legis.state.qa.us/legis/2005_06/house/index.htm

A Fresh Face

Abby Richison
Committee Aide

Born and raised in what has now become Metro Atlanta, Abby still longs for days when there was more trees than cell phone towers in her backyard. A Paulding County native and graduate from Hiram High School, Abby chose to further her education, not at one of Georgia's 'city' schools, but rather at the State University of West Georgia in Carrollton. "There was a large part of me that wanted to attend the University of Georgia, in Athens, but after visiting the school, I felt that for myself, the smaller, more focused education at West Georgia was my best fit," said Richison. "Part of me felt like I was missing out on the out of town college experience, but for me, I felt like the best opportunity for my education would come at a smaller school."

Abby's political aspirations began to take shape at West Georgia during her first legislative session as intern at the Capitol. "I think that I learned more in the four months of my internship than I did in four years of college," said Abby. As an in-

tern for State Senator Regina Thomas, Abby not only learned that the political and governmental arenas were an interesting place to work, but also that the people who are involved, are for the most part, here for the right reasons. "Sen. Thomas showed me that regardless of someone's political party, you can vote your mind and heart regardless of what party you belong too. That was a great lesson to learn."

That Senate internship led to Abby becoming the Intern Coordinator in the Speaker's Office for the 2005 Legislative Session, and upon graduating from West Georgia this past spring, Abby has now found a permanent place on the House staff. "When I first got here, I was a little overwhelmed with a lot the changes that had occurred, but the people here at the House are 'my kind of people'," said Richison. As a first job out of college, the Capitol can be overwhelming, but Abby has quickly become a top notch aide.

- Brent Cranfield

Happy New Year!